'IRAQ

692 175 727 Cassation at Constantinople. The Courts' Proclamation abolished appeals to any Court outside 'Iraq,[1] and replaced all other Courts of Appeal by a single Court of Appeal composed of a British President and two Arab Judges.[2]

Religious Courts

698 175 727 The importance of reconstituting *Shara'* or Religious Law Courts, as provided in the Proclamation,[3] had been recognized in 1917 by Mr. Bonham-Carter. He had then pointed to the respect with which the Courts were regarded in Muslim countries, to the practical advantage of deciding certain classes of cases by Muslim Judges in accordance with Muslim Law, and to the immense additional political advantage of associating with the Government the influential religious class of the *'Ulamā* from which the *Qādhīs* were drawn.[4] He had indicated these alone as adequate reasons for continuing them.

Sunnī *Qādhīs*, therefore, were appointed with these ends in view to fourteen centres by the end of 1918, and to twelve additional ones by the end of 1920, as well as to the *Shara'* Court set up in Baghdad in July, 1917. A long standing grievance was partly remedied by permitting Shī'īs to refer their cases to Shī'a *Qādhīs*. Under Turkish rule, the Shī'īs had been forced to submit their personal status cases, if they took them to court, to the Sunnī *Shara'* Courts where the cases were decided in accordance with Sunnī Law. Shī'a religious Judges under the name of *Nayabat-al-Ja'farīya* were appointed in 1918 to six centres and to six others by the end of 1920.

Criminal Courts

692 175 727 The reorganization of the Criminal Courts was more difficult than that of the Civil Courts. The Ottoman Criminal Procedure required a multitude of Courts, investigating magistrates

[1] Courts' Proclamation, Section 9.
[2] Ibid., Section 6.
[3] Ibid., Section 10.
[4] *Admin. Rep. Justice*, 1917, p. 4 (12).